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Claremont
for the
year ending
March 8, 1853

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

Appointments by the Selectmen.

CHIEF ENGINEER — **JONAS LIVINGSTON.**

ASSISTANT ENGINEERS,

William Rossiter, L. P. Fisher, G. W. Blodgett, Sylvester Wheeler,
Timothy Eastman, J. F. Cossitt, D. A. Clay, Orlando Newton.

Votes for State and County Officers.

VOTES FOR GOVERNOR,

James Bell,	290
Noah Martin,	226
John H. White,	96

COUNCILLOR.

James Batcheller,	384
Daniel M. Smith,	226

SENATOR.

John S. Walker,	265
A. B. Williamson,	244
Alvah Smith,	94

TREASURER.

Albro Blodgett,	268
Royal Shumway,	225
Timothy D. Powers,	93

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

William F. Newton,	268
John Town,	248
Levi W. Barton,	93

RAIL-ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

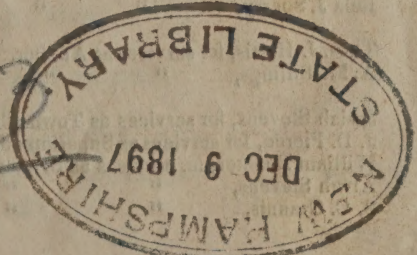
Benjamin H. Plaisted,	226
Joseph Sawyer,	290
John Gove,	93

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

J. E. Rowell,	291
John M. Glidden,	290
F. A. Twitchell,	290
B. C. Smith,	226
Hiram Smith,	225
Hiram Sargent,	226
F. A. Henry,	93
Arunah Burnap,	93
Benjamin F. Goss,	93

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FINANCIAL REPORT.

The undersigned, Auditors of the Town of Claremont, for the fiscal year ending March 8, 1853, having attended to the duties with which they have been charged and found the accounts of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and other Town Officers correctly cast and properly vouched, would submit the following

REPORT.

Received into the Treasury,

Balance on hand March 9, 1852,	\$2,042 83
For use of Town Hall,	40 00
For Circus and Managerie Licenses,	60 00
For State Apportionment of Literary Fund,	193 83
Of Worcester Jones, borrowed at 5 pr. ct.,	550 00
Of Ralph Ainsworth, borrowed at 5 pr. ct.,	300 00
Of Zerah Smith, borrowed,	1,000 00
From sales of wool, calves and produce at Poor Farm,	63 19
From the County and Pauper Account,	539 62
For four bushels rye sold at Poor Farm,	3 33
Of Theron A. Scranton, for upper bridge plank,	3 36
Of David Towne for grass in new Cemetery,	5 00
For State apportionment of Railroad Taxes,	245 49
From Alvah Stevens on Tax Bill of 1852,	4,904 18
From town of Jaffrey for support of pauper,	16 25
Of Thos. J. Harris for recording S. Land Deeds,	1 36
Of Albro Blodgett for School Land Rents,	184 56
From town of Charlestown for support of pauper,	57 20
	<hr/>
	\$10,210 21

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid out of the Treasury, as follows :

TOWN OFFICERS.

Nathan Waldo, for services as Moderator,	\$5 00
Bela J. Sperry, " "	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$7 00
Thos. J. Harris, for services as Auditor,	8 00
A. M. Billings, " "	3 00
	<hr/>
	11 00
Josiah Stevens, for services as Town Clerk,	25 60
J. D. Pierce, for services as Superintending School Com.	73 00
William Rossiter, for services as Selectmen,	91 25
Alvah Stevens, " "	59 25
S. C. Grannis, " "	74 42
	<hr/>
	224 92

Albro Blodgett, for services as Com. on School Lands,	5 00
Alvah Stevens, for services as Collector,	80 00
Edward Brown, for services as Com. for inspecting bridges, 1851,	3 00
William Rossiter, for services as Treasurer,	20 00
" " " Overseer of the Poor,	20 00
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Alfred Burrill, for services as Constable at town meeting,	40 00
	2 00

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Alfred Burrill, for services ringing bell,	\$32 00	
James Barker, " "	24 00	
	<hr/>	\$56 00
Wm. B. Henry, repairing bell hangings,	1 50	
Wm. Rossiter, for new bell rope,	1 50	
	<hr/>	3 00
George W. Blodgett, services as Chief Engineer,	3 00	
Henry Rugg, for work, oil, &c., on engines,	3 86	
	<hr/>	6 86
James Barker, for services as Sexton,	12 05	
Alfred Burrill " "	63 77	
	<hr/>	75 82
Henry Rugg, for work on engine No. 3,		8 00
A. B. Williamson, for professional services,		2 00
Wm. M. Ladd, on account of Teachers' Institute,		44 69
Joseph Weber, for printing,	3 00	
Young & Brewster, for printing	13 50	
	<hr/>	16 50
Jonas Livingston, repairing and painting fire ladders, &c.		8 00
Freeman & McClure, for professional services		5 00
Rossiter & Putnam, school books for Slader boy,		61
Wm. Rossiter, for cash paid Dyer H. Sanborn and Henry Hubbard, use of Tremont House Room, &c.,		44 76

PAUPERS.

On Pauper Account,	1077 04
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MILITIA.

On Militia Account,	6 00
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ENGINE MEN.

Compensation to fire engine men,	129 00
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HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

For repairing highways and bridges,	4,417 27
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NEW HIGHWAYS.

Paid for constructing new highways and land damages,	147 00
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TAXES.

For abatement of Taxes,	94 91
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SCHOOLS.

Paid for public schools:

District No. 1	No. of Scholars, 157	\$273 93
2	59	127 91
3	29	83 21
4	68	141 32
5	62	132 38
6	24	73 76
7	39	98 11
8	38	96 62
9	60	129 40
10	25	77 25
11	32	87 68
12	19	68 31
13	22	72 78
14	26	78 74
15	116	212 84
16	29	83 21
17	255	419 95
18	55	121 95
19	28	81 72

1143

2463 07

Paid to Dis. No. 9 and 16 on outstanding orders,
less \$10 overdrawn last year by Dis. No. 6, 75 84

SCHOOL HOUSES.

For building and repairing school houses, 792 10

Balance now in the Treasury,

9,944 99

265 22

\$10,210 21
TOWN FARM.

Having also investigated the operations of the Town Farm for the preceding financial year, as exhibited to us by the Selectmen, the result we give in the following

ABSTRACT.

Amount of per'l property, as per appraisement, March, 1852,	\$1420 00
Amount drawn from the Treasury,	1077 04
Amount received on outstanding claims,	9 95
Interest on the cost of the Farm,	228 00
	<hr/>
	\$2734 79

Am't of per. prop'y, as pr. appraisal, March, 1853,	\$1439 08	
Am't rec'd from the county and paid into the Treasury,	539 63	
Am't due on outstanding claims,	3 00	
Am't due from the county,	7 50	
	<hr/>	1989 21
Balance against the Farm,		<hr/> \$745 58

RECAPITULATION.

Amount due from the town for money borrowed under vote of March, 1852,		\$1850 00
Deduct for amount due on Tax Bill of 1852,	\$ 25 00	
Deduct balance now in the Treasury,	265 22	
Deduct amount due from Eastman & Tenny toward the new pier of the upper bridge	50 00	
Deduct am't due from county on pauper account,	7 50	
	<hr/>	\$347 72
Balance of liabilities,		<hr/> \$1502 28

All which is respectfully submitted,

THOMAS J. HARRIS,
CHARLES M. BINGHAM, } *Auditors.*
SAMUEL C. BAILEY,



REPORT

Of the Superintending School Committee of Claremont,
For the year ending March, 1853.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

In accordance with custom, and in compliance with the laws of our State, your committee would present for your consideration a brief report of the condition of our District Schools the past year.

It is well known, that at your last annual meeting the long established custom of having your committee consist of three members, was abrogated, and the whole burden of responsibility and labor, pertaining to the office, was imposed upon one. It is not for him to decide, whether the change was judicious or not; he has only to say, that the supervision of all our schools is a task, which, perhaps, no one can duly appreciate save by experience.—We have had a somewhat oppressive sense of the magnitude of the trust, and have endeavored to discharge its duties faithfully.

Of the various topics to be considered, we would first say a few words on
SCHOOL HOUSES.

The success of a school depends somewhat on the place in which it is held. The school house should be pleasantly located; it should be a model of architectural beauty, commodious, airy, with a neat, if not an elegant finish, so that it may be attractive, rather than repulsive, to the young mind. Some of our school houses are of this character, others are simply decent, tolerably convenient, but without any pretensions to beauty or good taste, while others still, are miserable, dilapidated structures, entitled to respect simply on account of their antiquity—the venerable relics of an age posterior, of course, to the deluge, but we should suppose, judging from their appearance, anterior to the dawn of civilization. We may give as examples of the first class, the spacious, substantial and handsome edifices in Districts 1, 12 and 15; of the second class, those in Districts 2, 11 and 17; and of the third, we shall be pardoned for naming those in Districts 7, 10, and last, we had well nigh said worst, 17. We indulged the confident, but, as it has proved, vain hope, when we entered on the duties of our office, that it would be our privilege in making up this report to chronicle the erection of a school house in the district last named, commensurate to its wealth, its enterprise and its wants. We plead with the good people of this ward, in behalf of their children, not to suffer another year to pass, without devising and carrying into effect some plan for the accommodation of their scholars, so that they may be able to breathe without difficulty, at least, during school hours. We trust that the citizens of No. 4 and 10, also, will see that it is for their interest to pull down and build anew, on eligible sites and on an improved plan, the coming year.

One school house has been erected, and another thoroughly repaired during the year past. The new structure was called for, in consequence of the formation of a new district taken from Nos. 6 and 9. The building is admirably located, and though not large, is sufficiently spacious for the present wants of its occupants. It is neatly finished, and well ventilated, but we are sorry to add, it is minus a desk for the teacher. This district is known as No. 16, the No. 16 that was being among the things that are past.

The school house in No. 6 has been removed from the eminence on which it was so long planted, eastward to the corner of the street, and regenerated,

both in its outward appearance and internal arrangement. It is now well adapted to its end, and considering that the district is small, it is a monument of the liberality of its proprietors.

A great improvement has been made in school house architecture within a few years past. In truth it may be said that we have approximated to, if not actually arrived at, the just idea of a school house. It is hoped the time is not far distant, when all our school edifices shall be as commodious, tasteful and elegant as our churches and other public buildings.

APPARATUS.

The school room can hardly be said to be ready for use, at this day, until it is furnished, at least, with the more simple kinds of apparatus. It should be remembered that the mind of the child is undisciplined, and of course, that he is incapable of reasoning abstractly. Neither his understanding nor his imagination is sufficiently cultivated to enable him to grasp the abstract principles of science, and to trace out their relations and dependencies, unless they come to him through the medium of the external senses. They must be elucidated and demonstrated before his eyes in order that he may understand them. Accordingly, every school room should be furnished with the apparatus necessary to this end. There should be in every such room, a black board of ample dimensions, a globe and a set of outline maps. Most of our schools are destitute of the two latter appendages, and although there is something in the form of a black board in every school room in town, in many of them it is but the apology for one, being altogether too small to be of any real service. Now a black board of generous size may be procured, and also, a globe sufficiently large for all practical purposes, for a mere trifle. Even the outline maps are by no means expensive, and it is believed that the funds which may be expended for them, will be profitably invested. We would recommend that these wants be speedily supplied in all our schools, that our teachers may have the benefit of the aids which such apparatus will afford them in the discharge of their responsible duties.

TEXT BOOKS.

Your committee has not deemed it advisable to make any change in the list of school books adopted by his predecessors. Most of them in use, are such as have been recommended by the State Board of Education, and though some of them are doubtless susceptible of improvement, they are, perhaps, equal in merit to any in the market. A frequent change in text books is to be deprecated, not only on account of the expense attendant thereon, and the consequent disaffection which it naturally engenders on the part of parents and guardians, but because it imposes a heavy tax on the teacher, for however conversant with a science he may be, he must make himself familiar with all the peculiarities of his text book in order to use it to advantage. And when changes are frequent, it is almost impossible for him to do this. When elementary treatises appear which embody manifest improvements, or which make a valuable addition to our school literature, they should of course take the place of others less excellent, but it should not be taken for granted, without examination, that the books last published are the best.

We deem it proper to remark that a few text books have surreptitiously found their way into some of our schools—books that have not received the approval either of the Board of Education or of the Town Committee. It may not be universally understood that such books are contraband articles, and that they cannot be lawfully used in school. The good of our schools evidently requires a uniformity of text books, and it is hoped that our citi-

zens will sustain the efforts made to prevent the use of such as have not received the sanction of your committee.

TEACHERS.

The whole number of teachers employed by the town during the year was 40—23 females and 17 males. Of this number, 26 had taught before in town, hence of their qualifications you have heard in previous reports of your committee. Of the remaining 14, 6 had taught elsewhere, thus leaving but 8 inexperienced teachers. These candidates, for the first time, for the teacher's office, sustained, without exception, an examination entirely satisfactory to your committee. During the summer term, 23 teachers were employed. It is but simple justice to say, that, as a whole, they were eminently successful in their labor of love. They manifested a devotedness to their work truly commendable. With one or two exceptions, the discipline of their schools was excellent, and the progress made in the various branches pursued, highly gratifying. In the examples excepted, the schools did not fully come up to our wishes, owing perhaps less to a want of energy in their teachers, than to circumstances not subject to their control. Two of the schools were brought to a premature close, in consequence of the indisposition of the teachers, but in one of them another instructor was procured who finished out the term.

The winter term has given employment to 25 teachers, of whom 8 were engaged in the summer schools. Our winter teachers have been faithful, devoted, and earnest, and most of them have succeeded admirably in their spheres of labor. Perhaps justice to all parties requires us to name the exceptions. In No. 1—primary department—4, 8, and 9, the discipline hardly came up to our ideal standard of excellence. In No. 13, the same failing was painfully manifest at our first visitation, but on a subsequent visit, the department was all that could be desired. In No. 2, 15—grammar department—and 16, the schools appeared well when visited by your committee, and seemed to be doing well, but some disaffection existed on the part of some of the parents in the several districts, which rendered the position of the teachers unpleasant and embarrassing. It may be admitted that the teachers we have ventured to mention as exceptions, were not, in all respects, models of excellence in their profession, but it should be remembered, that the prosperity of a school does not depend solely on its teachers. A teacher of ordinary ability and tact, will succeed well if he receives the united and active support of the parents of the flock entrusted to his care, while the first class instructor can accomplish little, however wisely and indefatigably he may labor, if opposed from this quarter. The teacher's station is a trying one, and to fulfil his mission, he must not only possess a rare combination of qualities, great versatility of talent, but he must be favored with the sympathy, and counsel, and encouragement, and, if need be, admonition of those for whose children's good his time and talents and energies are devoted.

We have reason to fear that there is a general remisness among us in reference to this particular,—that the duty here specified is one of the things which we are prone to leave undone, one of our sins of omission. The teachers' registers bear witness to the discouraging fact, that several of our schools have not been favored with the countenance, in a literal sense, of a single parent during the year. This entire destitution of sympathy for the teacher, with this, apparently, utter indifference to the welfare of our schools, acts as an opiate on the ambition of both teachers and scholars, inducing the conviction in their minds, that it matters little whether they do well or ill. Considering how little general interest there has been among us, in the cause of

Common School Education; we feel that our teachers, as a whole, are entitled to a high meed of praise, for the interest they have manifested in their responsible calling, and for the efforts they have made to elevate the schools of which they have had charge. We feel warranted to say that wherein any of them have failed, it has been in ability, not in fidelity—that their errors have been of the judgment, not of the will.

LENGTH OF SCHOOLS---ATTENDANCE.

There have been in the aggregate 526 weeks of schooling in town during the year. Average length of all the schools, 24 weeks and a fraction, or a little less than six months. The longest schools in summer were in Nos. 3, 4, and 13, having been, severally, 16 weeks. The longest winter school has been 17 weeks, taught in No. 12. The shortest summer schools were in Nos. 6, 11, 15 and 19, each 10 weeks. The shortest winter term has been 8 weeks, in No. 13.

The number of scholars of all ages, in our schools, during the summer, was 649; and in the winter 813. Average attendance of all the schools, in summer, 510, in winter, 674. The smallest school in summer was in No. 19, consisting of but 12 scholars; in winter, in No. 12, containing 14 scholars.—The largest school in summer was in No. 1, primary department—having had a sum total of fifty; in winter, in No. 17—grammar department—which has numbered 69. The explanatory remark may be added that no children have been reckoned members of any of our schools, unless they have attended two weeks or more during a term. Other statistics in reference to our schools—the names of teachers and of prudential committees, the length of terms, the whole number of scholars, and the average attendance in all our schools, with the amount of school money apportioned to the several districts, are given in a table appended to this report.

CONCLUSION.

Our system of Free Schools is one of the richest legacies bequeathed to us by our fathers, for to the general diffusion of knowledge among our citizens, is our republic largely indebted for its unparalleled growth and prosperity.—But the advancement of science and literature does not comprise all the good that has emanated from the school room. It is designed to be also a nursery of morality and virtue. True, the specific object of the district school, is the cultivation of the intellect, but the statute affirms also, that “it shall be the duty of all persons, entrusted with, or engaged in the instruction of the young, diligently to impress upon their minds the principles of piety and justice, a sacred regard to truth, love of country, humanity and benevolence; sobriety, industry and frugality; chastity, moderation and temperance; and all other virtues which are the ornament and support of human society, and to endeavor to lead them into a particular understanding of the tendency of all such virtues to preserve and perfect a republican form of government, to secure the blessings of liberty and to promote their future happiness, and the tendency of the opposite vice to degradation, ruin and slavery.” How lively, then, should be our interest in the Common School! How watchfully should we guard it, how warmly cherish it, how diligently and untiringly labor to perfect it! It richly deserves, and we trust will ever receive, the fostering care of the patriot, the generous support of the philanthropist, and the fervent prayers of the christian.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. PIERCE,

Superintending School Committee of Claremont.

A TABULAR VIEW

Of the Schools in Claremont, for the year ending March, 1853.

Districts,	Terms of School,	TEACHERS.	PRUDENTIAL COM'S.	Weeks of School	Average attendance.	Wh. No. Schol'rs	Am't Sch. money
1	1st	H. M. Handerson.	C M BINGHAM	14	50	44	\$275 50
	"	S. N. Pierce.		14	40	28	
	2d	H. M. Handerson.		12	47	35	
	"	J. S. Chamberlin.		12	44	36	
2	1st	P. Nott.	CHARLES KNIGHTS	13	32	25	128 50
	2d	S. A. Higbee.		11	36	23	
3	1st	L. G. Thorndike.	S S ROBINSON	16	23	15	83 50
	2d	G. A. Vinton.		12	29	22	
4	1st	E. A. Demming.	J LEWIS	13	37	25	142 00
	"	E. Dustin.		3	37	25	
	2d	E. A. Thomas.		14	51	40	
5	1st	S. L. Lathe.	T FLETCHER	14	37	25	133 00
	2d	Wm. Balloch.		11	47	35	
6	1st	A. E. Towne.	W MERRILL	10	24	19	76 00
	2d	L. D. Ladd.		12	23	21	
7	1st	A. R. Colby.	A D JOHNSON	11	20	15	98 50
	2d	S. F. Rossiter.		10	30	26	
8	1st	S. B. Allds.	L AINSWORTH	14	30	25	82 00
	2d	G. W. Draper.		16	35	27	
9	1st	L. D. Ladd.	L A DAVIS	14	36	30	33 00
	2d	F. T. Chase.		12	45	36	
10	1st	E. P. Demming.	A THOMAS	12	23	17	77 50
	2d	A. D. Davis.		10	23	20	
11	1st	P. Chapin.	C PARKER	10	21	17	38 00
	2d	J. W. Patrick.		12	27	20	
12	1st	S. B. Farrington.	R R BOWMAN	14	15	9	68 50
	2d	A. E. Towne.		17	14	12	
13	1st	F. E. Marsh.	J CHAFFIN	16	18	17	73 00
	2d	H. M. Kimball.		8	15	11	
14	1st	H. M. Richardson.	J EMERSON	12	20	18	79 00
	2d	E. C. Demming.		7	27	18	
	2d	W. G. Wyman.		5	26	23	
15	1st	S. J. Hunt.	H JUMMINE	7	35	30	
	"	F. J. Chamberlin.	AND S. WALLINGFORD.	10	38	31	214 00
	2d	M. A. Jones.		12	33	29	
16	"	J. Mitchell, 2d.		12	41	32	
	2d	N. M. Johnson.	H DEAN	12	28	24	83 50
	1st	L. Powers.		14	34	24	
17	1st	M. E. Dimond.		14	43	36	
	1st	R. A. Locke,	M C McCLURE	14	44	34	422 50
	2d	S. Powers.		16	77	42	
	"	M. E. Dimond.		16	64	50	
	"	E. A. Charlton.	S PAUL	16	69	56	122 50
18	1st	M. A. Jones.		12	27	18	
	2d	C. W. Peabody.		14	42	35	
	1st	C. F. Reed.		10	12	9	
19	2d	H. W. Childs.	E HIGBEE	12	17	13	82 00

